

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, and 6-26 are pending in the above-referenced application.

Claim 5 has been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate features of allowable claim 5. Claims 6 and 8 have been amended to change their dependency due to the cancellation of claim 5.

This is a response to the Final Office Action dated January 19, 2010 wherein prosecution re-opened in view of Appellant's Appeal Brief filed October 28, 2009.

By means of the Office Action, claims 10-26 have been allowed and claims 5-8 allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-4 and 9, which were not appealed, have been finally rejected.

Although Applicant does not necessarily acquiesce to the rejections of claims 1-4 and 9, in light of the allowance of claims 10-26 and 5-8, the latter claim group conditioned on further amendments, Applicant has decided to amend the claims to place the entire application in condition for allowance.

In view of the amendments to place the application in condition for allowance, a notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner find it necessary to speak with Applicant's attorney; he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

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